POETRY.

For the Telegraph.

TO ——. *A Weeping Penitent.*

Ah weep! that bright drop in thy deep blue eye,
Glows with a purer and a lovelier ray
Than showers which fall in sunshine, when the sky
Is clad in all the brilliant hues of May;
Angels behold it from their spheres on high,
And fly to kiss the beautious tear away;
The Holy Spirit, hovering o'er thy head,
Whispers, "The mourners shall be comforted."

Yes, weep, thou fair one! for 'tis not in vain
That down thy cheek repentance waters flow;—
All heaven is moved to hear that plaintive strain,
And Jesus listens to thy tale of wo;
He for *thy sake* hath wept—for *thee* was slain;
Nor will he let thee from his presence go,
Unbless'd, unpardoned:—nay, methinks that *now*
I see "*Salvation*" written on thy brow.

Yet do not cease to weep! Altho' thy soul
Hath the sweet witness of her sins forgiven:—
For others, let those streams in pity roll,
Who have not felt, like thee, the bliss of heaven!
O! urge them oft with *tears*, to seek that goal,
Ere they by heaven's fierce thunderbolts are driven
Down to the yawning gulph!—where burns the ire
Of God forever!—like devouring fire.

O weep for them! but not for them alone;—
For Zion now demands thy bitterest tears;
When thou shalt see her wounds, a deeper groan
Will wring thy bosom—but this promise cheers,
"Those who at eve, in grief their seed have sown,
Shall reap rejoicing when the morn appears;"
That glorious morn, when Jesus from the skies,
Shall hail thee "BLESSED," and wipe thy streaming eyes.

A.....

Rutland, April, 1836.

From the Common School Assistant.

ADDRESS

Of the Hon. Charles Humphrey, delivered before the Ithica Education Society, September 29, 1835.

Nothing could gratify us more, than to have room enough to give our readers the whole of this address. It is full of instruction, of the most valuable character. The Hon. Speaker has not only shown himself a true patriot, but an active, warm philanthropist. He has done what but few statesmen have an inclination to do—he has closely observed the character and condition of our common schools, and the workings of our school system. The address is eminently practical; it presents a full statement of the evils and defects in the schools and clearly and forcibly suggests their appropriate remedies. Says Mr Humphrey—

"Whether we regard education with reference to the political, social, or individual condition of men, it is a cause in every way worthy of the best efforts of the patriot and the philanthropist. Regarded as a duty, if there is a way in which a man can best repay society for the advantages and protection it affords him, it is this. Regarded as a charity, if an act of benevolence can be conceived in which the giver and receiver are mutually and most effectually blessed, it is this."

HALF EDUCATED.

"An educated people will not long remain subject to the abused power of their rulers. But it must be borne in mind, that the most difficult people to govern, are the half educated."

What an important truth is this, for our legislators and patriots! There must be an equality of education, as far as practicable. All, in this government, must, as far as possible, have an equal start. Educate a few, and intelligence, through the love of power, will take the advantage of ignorance. We hope this truth from the Hon. Speaker will be deeply felt.

THE ELEMENTS OF MOBS.

We still quote from the address:—

"For our present purpose we need but to answer a single question; of whom are these mobs usually, if not invariably composed? If time would permit, we might show that most of our sectional jealousies; the heart-burnings and hatred growing out of the different conditions of men; the disposition to array those of one occupation against those of a different occupation; those of one religion against those of a different religion; and the thousand evils of this description, could not exist to an alarming, or even troublesome extent, amongst an educated people. They could not be turned into political questions, unless there were fools as well as knaves amongst us. If gross ignorance were expelled, the arts of the demagogue would fail, for the want of materials to act upon. Daily observation shows us, that intelligent and educated men make the most peaceable, orderly, well disposed and useful members of society."

HISTORY OF THE NEW-YORK SCHOOL SYSTEM.

"The first public effort was made under the colonial government, in the city of New-York, early in the last century, for establishing a public school in that city, and fifty pounds appropriated annually.—The guardians of this fund applied it to their own purposes. The public derived but little benefit from it, and the act expired by its limitation.

"In 1732, an act was passed to establish a literary institution in the city of New-York. Eighty pounds were appropriated. This was the origin of King's (now Columbia) College, to which large public and private endowments have since been made.

"In 1784, the Regents of the University were incorporated, with powers to incorporate Colleges and Academies; and with supervisory powers over them; or, in the language of the legislature, as 'The guardians of the education of the youth of this state.'

"In 1787, the act was extended, and their powers more particularly defined and enlarged.

"In 1790, an act was passed authorizing the regents to lease certain lands belonging to the state, and apply the rents to the use of colleges and academies.—They also appropriated 1,000 pounds from the treasury for the same purpose. In this act, it is declared to 'be the duty of a free and enlightened people to patronize and promote science and literature, as the surest basis of their liberty, property and happiness.'

"In 1784, a lot was reserved in each of the military townships, for promoting the gospel, and a public school or schools, and a lot for promoting literature.

"The regents in their annual reports frequently recommended the establishment of common schools.

"In 1795, it was urged by Gov. Clinton, in his message, and in that year the act was passed which is the basis of our present system. By this act, 20,000 pounds were appropriated, to be allotted to the several counties, the supervisors of which were to distribute it to the towns. The towns to raise by tax half as much as was allotted to them. Money was also to be raised in New-York and Albany for the same purpose. Commissioners and trustees were provided for, similar to our present system.

"In 1801, $100,000 was authorized to be raised by lottery, which was the commencement of the literature and common school fund. In 1827, $150,000 was added to the literature fund. In 1811, the present common school system was matured, and has continued without any material change in its organization. With the details of this system, we are all familiar. In 1815, 500,000 acres of land were appropriated to the common school fund, and other large additions have since been made to it."

* * * * * * *

"Our system is well and efficiently organized, and as far as public agents, in its general administration, are concerned, wisely and faithfully carried into operation in all its parts. The public provisions are commensurate with the means of a patriotic, enlightened and enterprising people; for such we may, with just pride, claim to be the character of our state."

IMPORTANCE OF COMMON SCHOOLS.

"From accurate data, it is ascertained that in this state 98 out of every 100 receive all their education at the common schools. The colleges and academies being dependant upon their character, in a great measure, for patronage and support, and necessarily under the guidance of intelligent and educated men, require no extraneous interference to accomplish the purpose for which they are designed. Individual interest and enterprise are enlisted in the aid of the private and public advantages proposed by their operations.—But it is not so with common schools.—This great institution, the basis of our political security and of individual happiness, seems to require something more than a mere invitation or opportunity, to induce the great body of the people to avail themselves of its benefits.

"It is conceded that the operation of our system is defective—that the benefits proposed have not been realized in practice. From official reports, and a careful survey of the whole state, it appears that the practical operation of the system is very similar in all the districts—that with few exceptions, and the most of them accidental, the defects which are found to exist in one, pervade the whole. What these defects are, every community can answer for themselves. This community can do so. We have the answer in detail in the report of our executive committee. Incompetent teachers are employed. The school-houses are not judiciously located, and are not constructed with a view to the comfort of those who attend school. The standard of education is not sufficiently exalted. It is too far below the capacity of children, and instruction has not kept pace with the improvements of the age.

"It is evident that the majority of the people, do not appreciate the advantages of an education, and while they acknowledge the force and solemnity of the obligation, to afford their children and dependents some means of instruction, make a kind of compromise with their consciences by sending them a limited time to school, without seeming to know or care what they do there—or what the qualifications of the teacher may be, provided he does not charge too high. This remark applies to a vast many respectable men, whose circumstances afford them no excuse.

"There are many again whose poverty affords a pretext, seemingly plausible. But the very object of the institution is to bring the means of education within their reach.

* * * * * * *

"But the education which is intended to fit men for respectability in the ordinary avocations of life—to qualify them for the transaction of business, and temper their moral character, is as a general question to be expected only from the common schools. We need not be told of the influence of early impressions upon the future character of men. On this subject we can all speak from our own experience and observation. At these schools children imbibe useful impressions from being well instructed, or bad impressions from being badly instructed; or what is perhaps even worse, the seeds of idleness and vice are permitted to take root in their minds, in the absence of all instruction, either positively good or bad.

"The characters of not less than 600,000 children, who are soon to exercise a controling influence over the destinies of this state, on whom its prosperity, and the freedom and stability of its institutions are to depend, are now forming, to an important extent, in these seminaries.

"They are, therefore, objects of the deepest solicitude, and ought to receive our unremitting and careful attention."

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A TEACHER.

"A teacher should be a person of matured understanding, of good moral character, conciliating in his disposition, and chaste in his deportment, should be able to win the affections and command the respect of his scholars. He should be a man of general learning, and possess a tact at communicating instruction. It is a great, but not uncommon mistake, to suppose for example, that a person who can merely read is as competent to teach the art to another as a well educated person could do; or that one who has merely learned the fundamental rules of arithmetic can teach those rules as well or profitably as one who is familiar with their application to the higher branches of arithmetic and mathematics. A teacher should be able to make the process of elementary instruction, auxiliary to the cultivation of the reasoning faculties, to the art and habit of thinking, and as he will in manners and morals constitute a model, which his pupils WILL imitate, it is of vast importance to the happiness of families and individuals, and the public well being, that, in the impressive language of Mr Dix, "his example should at least carry with it no lessons of evil." Does not this view of the subject, which we have taken, demonstrate that the cause of education is not held in sufficient estimation by the community? That there is an almost criminal disregard of the privileges which the beneficence of legislation has conferred upon us? Would any sensible farmer employ a girl of sixteen, without experience or physical capacity, to conduct the operations of his farm, and submit the management and direction of it to her?—Certainly not. And why not? The answer is obvious. He would know that a failure of his crops, and derangement of his business would be the consequence.—This evil would be temporary, and susceptible of a speedy remedy. And yet we find too many, whom it would be unjust to charge with a want of sense, who, for the sake of saving a few dollars, are willing to entrust the business of educating and forming the manners and moral character of their children, to unfit and incompetent persons; an infinitely more important concern, because its consequences are more enduring, and the evil less susceptible of remedy. The utmost that is calculated upon from such a teacher, is to instruct children in the mere elementary branches. The useful application of these branches—the training of the moral character—the refinement of the manners—and the cultivation of the reasoning faculties, forms no part of the plan; and yet, these are all within the legitimate province, and may form a part of the ordinary course of instruction in a well regulated common school.

"M. Victor Cousin, in his report upon the Prussian system, remarks, that 'the best plans of instruction cannot be executed, except by the instrumentality of good teachers;' and the state has done nothing for popular education, if it does not watch that those who devote themselves to teaching be well prepared; then suitably placed, encouraged and guided in the duty of continued self-improvement; and lastly, promoted and rewarded in proportion to their advancement, or punished according to their faults."

NEGLIGENCE OF PARENTS AND SCHOOL OFFICERS.

"Another serious evil is the neglect of the inspectors, and indeed of parents in visiting schools. If the operations of this society extended no further than the frequent visitation of the schools, its beneficial influence in the encouragement which it would give to teachers, and the emulation it would excite amongst the scholars, would well repay the benevolent efforts of its members.

"The neglect of public officers, and the apathy and indifference of parents in this respect, has a most blighting influence upon the zeal and self-respect of teachers, and upon the ambition and spirit of their pupils. The most effectual way to make a vagabond or a rogue of a man, is to treat him as one, and the converse of the proposition is true in every supposable case."

* * * * * * *

"The operations of this society will be confined to the town of Ithica. If its influence shall be found beneficial, it is hoped that it will extend to other towns of the county, and be met by corresponding, or better devised and directed efforts, in every part of the state."

"It is to be hoped that some district of this town will be found enterprising, public spirited, and I may add, wise enough, to disregard trifling pecuniary considerations, and establish a liberal and well regulated school. They will not only reap the immediate advantage themselves, but it will serve as a model for imitation.—Good as well as bad example, is contagious."

We are greatly indebted to the Hon. Speaker for the extracts we have made from his patriotic address. For this privilege we feel assured that our readers will perceive this number greatly enriched with many valuable hints and suggestions.

Sewing Silk is selling in Northampton at $10 1-2 per lb. It is becoming a scarce article, and already we feel the necessity of having our Northampton Silk Company in operation. It has been ascertained by a careful computation, that not less than $15,000 worth of silk stuffs were sold in this town during the year 1835. One firm sold $4000 worth. Only think of that! Fifteen thousand dollars sent out of this single town to purchase the one luxurious article of silk! when if our farmers had had the business of silk growing in their eye five years since, this comfortable amount could have just as well been put in their own pockets. What one item of produce is their raised in the Northampton meadows which furnisnes an income of $15,000?—*Courier.*

POPULARITY SEEKERS.

There is not a more odious personage in society than an habitual aud devoted hunter after popularity. Where another man relies altogether upon his own merit to rise in the world, he is thurst aside by one of these waiters on popular opinion and popular applause, who is obliged to put on a mask and bow to the crowd in every direction at the same moment.—Such an individual sacrifices his own feelings of self-respect to the changing opinions of others. Dependent altogether upon whims and caprices of those whose favors he solicits, he can lay claim to no dignity on independence of character. Your true popularity hunter must not have a mind of his own upon any subject that is agitated in the community, or rather he must have as many different opinions as the subject will admit, and be able to fortify them by a thousand plausible reasons. He must be hand and glove with every man, carry favor with all, and have a dose of flattery to administer to each wih a careful and discriminating hand. He cares not for popularity for its own sake merely and exclusively—it is to be used as an instrument for his own promotion and exaltation.—This is the great object of all his yearnings after the favor of the people. But the prize to which he aspires, demands of him a tremendous sacrifice—of almost all that an honest, high-minded and honorable man values—a sacrifice of principle, of dignity and independence of character.—His only aim in his intercourse with mankind is that popularity, which an eminent English judge spake of as being run after, not that which follows. He cannot be satisfied with exerting his powers for the good of his race, and reaping the good opinion of his fellow-men. But he must stoop and cringe to all for applause, blindfold his judgment, sacrifice his principles and become a puppet, a mere automation—a creature that depends for its existence on the ever-varying breath of popular favor. When such men succeed in raising themselves into places of power, honor, and influence, the great object of all their labor is attained, and they are apt to look with the sneer of cold contempt upon the people, who have clothed them with their little brief authority. Such men are not uncommon in this republic—where offices which should be the reward of talent, integrity, and merit, are too often the reward of intrigue and management of the artful and designing. The example of these popularity hunters upon our young men cannot but be injurious in the highest degree. They should turn from them as from a poisonous reptile, never sacrificing their independence and dignity of character—keeping principle and duty constantly in view—and leave the rest to the people. They will eventually obtain that popularity which follows merit, and the performance of duty, and in the end far outstrip those who are ever *running after* the applause and favor of the multitude. —*Claremont Eagle.*

RESPONSIBILITY. Children constitute a sacred and interesting charge committed to parents by the great Father of all; and with each child he may be regarded as distinctly uttering the command,—take this young child and bring it up for me. The duty is interesting, the responsibility thrilling. Parents are amenable to God for the manner in which they fulfil their obligations in relation to their offspring, and under no pretence can they escape from these obligations or transfer them to others. Many efficacious means may be suggested to communicate religious instruction to children, but none of these can with propriety be regarded as lessening the responsibility of parents, or as superseding their assiduous personal attention. They have peculiar duties which can never be performed by proxy. This sense of personal obligation is felt with sufficient force by parents, as far as it relates to the support, protection and temporal well-being of their children; but this is not enough. Their children possess undying souls, and God has required them to cultivate their moral faculties; to restrain them from evil, to direct their thoughts heavenward; and by earnest expostulation and tender entreaty, to induce them to remember their Creator in the days of their youth. They have, to a certain extent, a command over the eternal destinies of their offspring; they may by pious care train them for heaven; or by negligence, plunge them into ruin. How seldom is this relation of parent to child appreciated; how seldom are its duties religiously fulfilled.—The consequence is inevitable. An ignorant childhood prepares the way for a thoughtless youth, and this in its turn is the precursor of hardened iniquity in manhood. Fearful must be the future account of those parents, who from a want of religious principle, or to escape the toil and fatigue of instruction, permit their offspring to make their first steps in ignorance of God and in neglect of his commandments. It is a cruelty which will at length bring these objects of their natural affection to certain infamy and everlasting remorse and ruin. When Christian parents behold the multitude of youth perishing in their vices through a defect of early religious instruction, and when they recollect that their own beloved offspring are soon to be exposed to the dangerous temptations of the world, how earnest should they be in fortifying them in religious principles, that the general plague may not come near their dwelling.—*Presbyterian.*

CRIME AND LEGISLATION IN GREAT BRITAIN.

According to a Report of a Committee of the House of Commons, there were confined in prisons and bridewells, during seven years, ending in 1831, 122,000 persons accused of crimes, or at the rate of 17,428 per annum. Of these, 85,000 were *convicted* of the crimes laid to their charge, so that 12,142 was the average amount of the yearly convictions. It has been estimated, in regard to juvenile delinquency, that more than 1,500 boys, in London alone, are employed in thieving, picking pockets, and committing all kinds of petty depredations. It is also found, that crimes, so far from diminishing, are, in this country, regularly increasing. From the Report of a late Committee of Parliament, it appears, that, during the last 14 years they have increased in the proportion of *twenty-four* to *ten*, that is, they have been far more than *doubled* in the course of that short period.

These statements exhibit a frightful view of the extent and the progress of crimes. Nor is it to be wondered at, when we consider the present state of education, and the manner in which it is conducted—the principles on which our penal code has been constructed, and the manner in which our criminal laws are executed.—Our penal code, throughout all its departments, is deeply imbued with the spirit of *revenge*. To produce *pain* and *disgrace* to the criminal appears to be its principal object; and, in the great majority of instances, it has the effect of hardening and rendering more desperate the persons whom it ought to have softened and reformed. To reform the criminal, to cure him of the moral disease which led him into crime, to impart appropriate instruction to his mind, and to prepare the way for his restoration to society as a renovated character, are circumstances which seem to have been entirely overlooked in the arrangements connected with our criminal legislation. In this respect a dreadful infatuation seems to have seized upon our legislators, implying a deficiency both of wisdom, of humanity, and of benevolence. When certain species of crime are on the increase, laws still more severe are enacted, and put in execution with all the pomp and rigor of authority and revenge. If whipping and imprisonment, toiling at the tread-wheel, laboring in the hulks, and transportation beyond seas, are insufficient to arrest the progress of crime, then *executions* without number are resorted to, in order to sweep the culprits at once from the face of the earth.—One enactment after another issues from the source of power; one law comparatively mild is cancelled, and another more severe substituted in its place; a severe punishment is sometimes modified and rendered less severe; the sentence of death is commuted into transportation for life, and a year's labor at the tread-mill for seven years' transportation. Every year new enactments, laws, and regulations, with alterations and modifications of former laws, issue from the legislative department of government; but all is of no avail to stop the progress of immorality and crime. Nor need we wonder at such a result; it is precisely such as we ought to expect from such a mode of legislation as now exists. Our state physicians act nearly in the same manner as the quack, who, instead of striking at the root of a sore which is underming the constitution, covers it over with a slender skin, and leaves the internal *virus* to gather strength till it break out in incurable ulcers, thro'-out every part of the system. They attempt to lop off the twigs and branches from the tree of crime, while they leave the root and the trunk to break forth afresh in still greater luxuriance. No efficient *preventive* system has as yet been arranged to strike at the root of crime, to prevent its growth, and to make the machinery of society move onward with smoothness and harmony. And, so long as preventive measures are overlooked, and moral training neglected, the severest laws that can be framed will be altogether inefficient to counteract the criminal propensities of the human heart.—*Thomas Dick, L. L. D.*

A petition has been presented in the Pennsylvania senate, 153 feet in length, and signed by nearly 5000 ladies of the city of Philadelphia, praying legislative interference to prevent the increase of taverns and grog-shops in that city.

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NEW-YORKER,

QUARTO EDITION.

THE publishers of the New-Yorker, encouraged by the generous and steadily increasing patronage which has hitherto rewarded their exertions, propose to issue, from the commencement of their third volume to the 26th of March ensuing, a new Double Quarto Edition of their journal, not instead of, but in addition to the now published. Advertisements, except perhaps a few of a strictly literary character, will be entirely excluded; and in addition to all the matter presented in the Folio New-Yorker, the Quarto will contain a page of popular music, &c. &c. and be accompanied by a handsome title page and comprehensive index at the close of the volume.

The general features of the New-Yorker will remain essentially as they have heretofore been. Its columns will contain—

1. *General literature*—Original tales, essays, reviews, poems, &c. with corresponding selections from the Quarterlies, Monthlies, and all the better class of periodicals. Foreign and American, with choice extracts from new works of substantial excellence. The editor acknowledges with pride and gratitude his obligation to his regular contributors—and among them are some whose names have shed lustre on the cause of American literature—for the steadfast support hitherto afforded him, and the confidence with which he is now enabled to assure the public that it will not soon be withdrawn. He takes pleasure in recalling the fact that since the establishment of the New-Yorker, no one other journal has offered specimens in equal extent and variety of the productions of all eminent American writers, of whatever section or class—characteristic which he hopes it may ever preserve; while his selections from the best works have been exceeded, in quantity at least, by those of but three or four among the myriad of cis Atlantic periodicals.

2. *National politics.*—It has been the aim of the editor to present a faithful exhibit of the aspects, movements and struggles of parties in our country, including the meetings of conventions, nomination of candidates for state and national offices, and all other significant manifestations of political feeling, with the general results of elections, as fast as ascertained, and the official canvass in each instance as soon as it shall have reached us. This course is believed to be in many respects original with this journal; and it is considered that we have just cause of felicitation in the fact, that, pursued as it has been through two years of unremitted political warfare, the fairness and general accuracy of our statements and reasons have very rarely, if ever, been questioned. The editor reserves to himself the right of remarking, as circumstances may seem to require and justice to dictate, on the less exciting political topics of the day, as on all others, with calmness, deference and moderation; but he will still strive—he trusts not less successfully than hitherto—to exclude from the columns of the New-Yorker every observation, reflection, or even argument, which may wantonly do violence to the sincere convictions of any well-informed reader, of whatever principle or party.

3. *General intelligence.*—In this department we can only promise the most unwearied industry and and patience in the collection, condensation and arrangement of the news, foreign and domestic, which may be gathered from the weekly reception of four hundred journals, including some choice European periodicals, and which may be afforded us by the attention of our friends abroad.

Literary notices, statistics, brief notices of works of art, amusements, the drama, &c. &c. will from time to time be given. As a general rule, however, it will be the aim of the editor to embody such articles, whether original or selected, as shall at least combine instruction with entertainment.

CONDITIONS.

The Quarto New-Yorker will be published every Saturday afternoon, on an extra imperial sheet of the finest quality, comprising sixteen pages of three columns each, and afforded to its patrons at $3 per annum, payable enflexibly in advance.—Orders from a distance, unaccompanied by a remittance, will necessarily remain unanswered. Any person or persons sending us $5 positively free of postage or other charges, shall receive two copies for one year, or a single copy for two years; and in the same proportion for a larger sum. The few who may desire to take the folio edition for immediate perusal and the Quarto for binding, will be entitled to receive both for $4.50 in advance. We will cheerfully preserve their files of the Quarto for any such who may desire it.

The subscribers are extremely solicitous that there be no misconception on the part of their patrons in regard to the two editions of their paper. The Quarto is commenced in deference to the solicitations of a great number of their friends, who have expressed a strong desire that the New-Yorker should appear in a form more susceptible of preservation than the present. It is neither anticipated nor hoped that it will receive a patronage at all consummate with that of the folio edition. They would frankly express their conviction that, for those whose interest in a journal expires with the week in which it reaches them, the latter will be decidedly preferable, aside from the difference in the price. Accordingly when an order for "The New-Yorker" simply, without specification, is sent them, the folio will invariably be sent.

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